

Art History Renaissance

The Renaissance was a period in history when exciting things happened in art!

Renaissance

The Renaissance was a time in history in the 1400s and 1500s when people had new ideas about the world, including art. "Renaissance" means "rebirth"—when something is born again. This was used because ideas from Ancient Greece and Rome came back into fashion.



The angle of the floor going back makes the space seem real.

SPOT IT!

See the little window in the back? This makes us look deep into the picture.



Space and light

Renaissance artists showed space and light in a new way to make pictures look real, not flat. This is called "perspective." They used a type of wall painting called fresco, as Italian artist Fra Angelico has here. Fresco is painting onto wet plaster. When it dries, the painting becomes part of the wall.



It's not all realistic, though. If these figures stood up, they would bang their heads!

The light and shadow on the columns and arches makes them seem like actual solid objects.

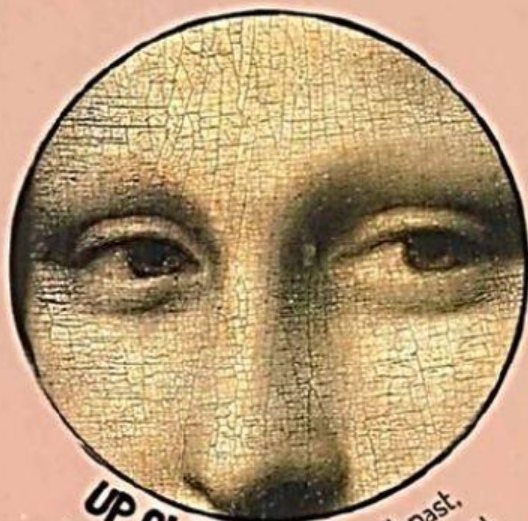
▲ The Annunciation, Fra Angelico, c.1440

▼ *Mona Lisa*, Leonardo da Vinci, c.1503–19



Woman of mystery

This picture was painted by Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci, one of the most important figures of the Renaissance. The painting is famous for being of an unknown woman who has eyes that follow you!



UP CLOSE! As you walk past,
you feel her eyes looking straight at you.

▼ *Ideal Head*, Michelangelo, c.1518–20



Sketching faces

Some Renaissance artists made lots of sketches of people. They wanted to draw the human body accurately, but also wanted people to look beautiful. Italian artist Michelangelo made this drawing using red chalk. Some parts are lightly sketched in, while others are more detailed. Look at the woman's fine and delicate eyelashes!

See also

Find out more about space and perspective on pages 20–21 and page 33.

Choose the correct word to fill in the blanks for each sentence:

The Renaissance was a time in history in the _____ and _____,

1300

1400

1500

where people had new _____ about the world, including

books

ideas

tv shows

art. Renaissance means _____. They called it that

rebirth

recycle

retro

because _____ ideas came back into fashion. They made pictures

new

old

silly

look real and not flat by using _____. And they used a

perplexive

perspective

purpose

type of wall painting called _____. When you paint on wet

frisco

ricoffee

fresco

_____ so that the painting becomes part of the wall.

paint

plaster

bricks

One of the most important artists during this era was _____

Leonardo da Vinci

Pablo Picasso

he was famous for:



Watch this video:

What did you learn about art history today?

Click here:

